



**Name of Project:** Mi Via

**Name of Organization:** The New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department, (ALTSD), Santa Fe, New Mexico

**Principle of Choices for Independence:** Consumer Direction

### **Description**

Mi Via (My Way) is New Mexico's Cash & Counseling program. New Mexico was one of 12 states selected in 2004 to participate in the Cash & Counseling program expansion. Cash and Counseling is a national program sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Planning and Evaluation and the Administration on Aging. The Cash & Counseling Service model is a form of consumer-direction intended to provide the greatest empowerment to individuals to make choices and take control of the community support services that they receive.

The goal of Mi Via is to provide New Mexico's diverse senior and disability population with the option to control their own waiver services. New Mexico used Medicaid's new self-directed waiver template to include this option in its 1915c waivers (Disabled and Elderly, Developmentally Disabled, HIV/AIDS, Medically Fragile). Participating consumers will receive a monthly budget based on his/her needs, and will be able to use this money to hire assistant services, make home modifications and more. Consultants will work with consumers to assist them as needed including revising and managing individual budgets. This program allows consumers the greatest choice and control over the types of services and supports they need.

Mia Via is being implemented through an aggressive multi-ethnic marketing campaign that includes the involvement of the Self-Directed Waiver Sub-Committee, comprised of waiver participants, their families, service providers, advocates, other interested parties, and state staff who provide feedback that guides the program's design, implementation and support.

To date, marketing efforts have identified 139 individuals interested in transitioning to the program and 15 people in the process of enrolling. As a result of a \$2 million appropriation from the 2005 New Mexico Legislature, persons with brain injuries will also be eligible for participation in the program. Mi Via's enrollment goal is 400 participants by October. 2007.

New Mexico's Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) provides oversight of the program through a Tri-Agency partnership that includes the New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Human Services Department.

For more information about Mi Via, contact Marise McFadden, Director, Elderly & Disability Services Division at 866-451-2901 or by email at [marise.mcfadden@state.nm.us](mailto:marise.mcfadden@state.nm.us)